

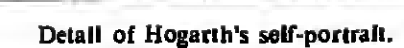
## LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

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Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension on the transformation efficiency of *Agrobacterium* strains. The number of transformed cells was determined by the number of colonies obtained on the selective medium. The results are the mean of three independent experiments. Error bars represent the standard deviation.



Conditions like the picture trade in Holland and the remier incomes of nineteenth-century France enticed painters to anticipate our requirements. But where the means of support are lacking we cheerfully expect self-immolation. Our idea of the artist's role is certainly so impoverished one if it leaves us without sympathy for the painter standing at the threshold of this society in Britain, who perceived the place to which it consigned him and rejected it with native pugnacity. Hogarth's careerism and patriotism are no more regrettable than the same traits in Titianetto; the extreme of frugulence to which the forced lim was the expression of his insight into his artistic and personal situation. The unamiable, maniacal obstinacy of a painter like Hogarth compels us to recognize an element

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**Hogarth's Graphic Works.** Compiled and with a commentary by Ronald Paulson. Volume 1: Introduction and Catalogue. 351pp. Volume 2: The Engravings. 342 plates. Yale University Press. £14.8s.

WILMARINE S. LEWIS and PHILIP HOTT (Compilers): "*The Beggar's Opera*" by Hogarth and Blake. A portfolio. Yale University Press. £3s.

Lichtenberg's Commentaries on Hogarth's Engravings. Translated and with an Introduction by Irene and Gustav Hurdan. 297pp. Cresset

The media of Hogarth's explorations were his drawings, with their tangled rhythmic webs, and his tonal studies in oil colour. The graphic techniques had no place in them, and the type of grand, successful painter that Hogarth sought to emulate, represented by his father-in-law, Thornhill, had no use for an informal exploratory commentary of the kind that the prints of the *true printmaker* supply to his pictures. The *true printmaker* confesses that the considered public statements of

ments, that where art and life are separated, the artist's part is lacking we cheerfully expect self-immolation. Our idea of the artist's role is certainly so impoverished when it leaves us without sympathy for the painter standing at the threshold of this society as Titian, who perceived the place to which it consigned him and rejected it with native pugnacity. Hogarth's careerism and patriotism are no more regrettable than the same traits in Titianetto; the extreme of frugulence to which the forced lion was the expression of his insight into his artistic and personal situation. The unchangeable, maniacal obstinacy of a painter like Hogarth compels us to recognize an element

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## TIME AND MOTION

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**JOHN MURRAY**

A few years ago a Danish scholar, Erik Iversen, published an unusual book, *The Myth of Egypt and its Hieroglyphs in European Tradition*. It was a labour of love, in which he traced the history of scholarly interest in ancient Egypt, particularly in its peculiar script, from late classical times down to the decipherment of hieroglyphs in the early nineteenth century. Mr. Leslie Greener has now performed a complementary labour of love, taking as his theme the history of the rediscovery of the land of Egypt and its ancient monuments by visitors from western countries.

He starts his story properly with Herodotus, the value of whose account of Egypt, stuffed though it is with nonsense taken uncritically from unreliable informants, becomes ever more appreciated as more is known of the shadowy period when he visited Egypt. The story of discovery could, however, have been started even earlier, for the Egyptians themselves were the earliest antiquaries of ancient Egypt, and the earliest tourists of its monuments. How many unvisited buildings are identified, often perhaps erroneously, by the graffiti of Egyptians of later periods who came to wonder at the Step Pyramid, for example, or at the pyramid of Meydum? Such visitors were, nevertheless, in the main stream of the ancient tradition which was not finally interrupted until the early centuries A.D. The progress of rediscovery was slow; intermittent, and conducted in uninforming gloom until the early nineteenth century. When the understanding of Egyptian writing led to the precise identification of ancient sites and the proper

comprehension of the monuments, Mr. Greener ends his tale with the establishment of an organized antiquaries service under the direction of Auguste Mariette, which marked the end of the free-for-all.

It is a fascinating tale of intrepid travellers, pious pilgrims, of rough adventurers and men with noble aims, of learned scholars engaged in primitive field-work, of diplomats involved in sordid intrigues, squabbling over doubtful concessions for excavation in the mad rush to obtain the loot which the soil of Egypt seemed to yield up endlessly. What is surprising is the number of articulate travellers who visited Egypt from the mid-sixteenth century onwards. A clearly marked tourist route was well established by the early eighteenth century, and successive travellers can be seen to have trodden the same paths and visited the same sites. At Saqqara the local inhabitants were clearly as well organized in 1750 to conduct the gullible traveller through the ibis-catacombs as their descendants are today to expand the marvels of the Serapeum, to the two-week package-tourist.

Published accounts of travellers have provided the bulk of the material for this book, but the author has not been content to reproduce their tales simply. The various stages in the rediscovery are traced separately, and their different aspects considered individually. An obvious historical order is avoided and the story made splendidly lively by the clever use of anecdote within straight narrative. Mr. Greener has set out to write:

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International conference held in Edinburgh in 1966. Subjects discussed include: acquisition of language by children; transformational grammar; the claimed biological basis for language. 228 pp. 42s.

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## HE MADE THE BOOKS AND HE DIED

ALICIA J. COLEMAN: *William Faulkner: Essays, Speeches and Public Letters*. Edited by James B. Meriwether. 233pp. Chatto and Windus. 25s.  
ALCOLM COWLEY: *The Faulkner-Cowley File. Letters and Memoirs, 1944-1962*. 184pp. Chatto and Windus. 30s.

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## FROM IMAGIST EXCURSIONS TO THE AGE OF OVERKILL

YVON WINTERS: *Early Poems 1920-1928*. 148pp. Deaver: Alan Swallow. \$3.75. RICHMOND LATTIMORE: *The Stride of Time*. 83pp. University of Michigan Press, London: The Press. 28s. THOMPSON HOLMES: *An Upland Pasture*. 69pp. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press. \$4.00. FREDERICK WILLY: *Plumes*. 71pp. New Hampshire: Gull Press. \$3.00. LOUIS COXE: *Nikol Seyn and Decoration Day*. 89pp. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press. \$4.00. JAMES WHITEHEAD: *Domains*. 55pp. Knoxville: Louisiana State University Press. \$3.50.

Yvon Winters does not offer his early verse as a significant adjunct to the Muse's diadem. True, he regards it as "very good of its kind, quite as good as any of the 'experimental' work of this century", but we know from his *Pennititum and Decadence* that he holds a pretty low opinion of the entire experimental movement. When the *Collected Poems* appeared in 1963, there seemed to be a fair amount of early work, but it now emerges that Mr. Winters included only twenty-one of the 132 early poems now on show. So we are not admonished to find masterpieces here. We are to read the early poems, presumably, because we are interested in the poet who went from these to other things. The verses are preliminary notes, then, essays in a prosody which Mr. Winters was soon to discard. As paragraphs in the history of modern American verse, they call for some attention, but very few of them hold their account beyond that limited setting. Indeed, one's reaction to the first poems is that there must have been remarkably durable stuff in the poet who survived them and went on to write "John Sutter", "To the Holy Spirit", and "Sir Gawain". The poems in *The Immobility Wind* (1921) and *The Magpie's Shadow* (1922) exhibit the usual broken phrases, breathless syntax, the usual air of speaking as if they were afraid of being heard. In *The Bore Hills* (1927) one begins to hear, in single authoritative lines, the voice of the intransigent poet who was to write *Before Disaster* (1934). And then in "Quod Tegiit Omnium", halfway through the present book, the poet of ecritude has arrived; the manner "laurel, archaic, rude", the syntax nugatorial. The mind is now "certain of its choice of passion but uncertain of the passion's end". But this is to anticipate. Most of the early poems are five-finger exercises. There are clues here to Mr. Winters's development, but nothing as significant as a certain remarkable short story which is the key to his whole work, in poetry and criticism. The story is printed in an anthology of psychological fiction called *Anchor in the Sea*, edited and published by Alan Swallow. The relation between the story and the early poems can now be examined.

*The Stride of Time* is a gathering of Richmond Lattimore's recent poems with some further translations (Arnaut Daniel, Leonie de Lisle, du Bellay, Gérard de Nerval, Cavafy, Euripides and Virgil) for which he is celebrated. The book is charming, autumnal in tone, the work of a man with a long classical memory. He speaks of "the squeeze of death" and, meanwhile, "the shine of wit", but these are, for the most part, quiet poems. Mr. Lattimore is a poet of percept, a description endorsed in a poem called "Verse" in which Dionysian or bardic aspirations are quietly set aside. Poetry in this urbane case arises from "some oyster-irritant" which will not tolerate tranquility until "the percept is enough, sealed, fused, transposed as artifact".

Theodore Holmes's new book is a more daring affair. He seems to have committed himself, in this third collection, to a long struggling line which traces the contour of a loosely analogical mind. We are to follow where the voice leads, or aesthetic hill and dale. Scenes and landscapes are translated into speculation, mostly aesthetic and metaphysical. It is like Wallace Stevens of the spind. Anything reminds Mr. Holmes of anything; no fancy is too fanciful. A poem called "Woman's College" is like a Rorschach weekend, loose to the degree of promiscuity. Mr. Holmes works on the assumption that any-

thing that can be said is worth saying. Among the available fallacies he chooses the most pathetic, until the reader is convinced that Alain Robbe-Grillet is right, after all: if relationships between Man and Nature are as easy to achieve as Mr. Holmes seems to think, they are bound to be bogus, let us away with the wretched things.

Mr. Will's sophistications take a different form, a kind of Imagism in gestures. Some of his new poems, like a sequence called "To a Friend", are the result of conceits too generously indulged. One has the impression that early versions of them might have been good meditative poems, if left alone; but that Mr. Will then went to great trouble to make them cut a dash. He speaks of "taking an occasional walk from one end of myself to another", and he constantly implies that this is a very special journey and that the scenery is remarkable. In fact, many of the new poems are album-verse, no more: like "Three for the Ago", a brash thing.

*Nikol Seyn* is a long dramatic monologue about John Nicholson, hero ("that playfellow god") of the Indian Mutiny of 1857. The narrator is an Irish-American soldier of incredible antiquity who tells the story to an American scholar some time in the 1960s. There are suitably contemporary references to the age of overkill, and so on. Mr. Coxe has taken, in all this, a great deal of rhetorical licence. We are to think of the narrator as a capable witness, a qualified participant in the events narrated. Apparently on the excuse that the narrative is recited in Liburn, the soldier is made to sound like Brendan Behan on a particularly noisy evening; though on several occasions the probabilities are stretched. There are irregular explosions of Lotin, philosophy, and

Franklinian rant. *Domains* is a play in which a great War general, now president of an American college, dreams his war again. Mr. Coxe seems to take the whole thing as seriously as his simile general. There is no hint of a saving irony. If you want to destroy a play about war the easiest way is to include lines left over from the nearest propaganda film. If they are fighting over there, can we stay out of it? A character called Ring says, And a girl called Sally is forced to protest at one point, "I don't want a dead hero. I want a live husband."

*Domains* is a first book of poems by James Whitehead. Most of the poems are descriptive, mediative,

pointed towards the morality of the occasion. Appropriately in a book which comes from Huck Finck's school, Mr. Whitehead writes of "the colour" of the human possibilities, slight, ranged against "the storm, sea, weather, the malice of things in general and death in particular". Mr. Whitehead has been schooled with Mark Twain, H. P. Lovecraft, Flannery O'Connor and other companionable ghosts, but he has his voice. His best poems are in the shape of anecdotes, given a notable sense of their weight of these, "His Old Friend who Times Comes to Talk", is a little poem, exact and just.

## In Lambeth Palace Road

by ROY FULLER

Nat far, as the pigeon flies, from Waterloo,  
Where droppings are thick under glass windows,  
To the railway outside St. Thomas' Hospital  
On which a pigeon is numbered as on a stile,  
To patients a supererogatory reminder.

How quickly a habit is established in  
A strange parish. Waiting for the ghoul  
To dispose of the radioactive refuse,  
And suchlike tedious, I visit a township  
Conveniently under the eerie shadow of County Hall,  
Close to where Wordsworth found the earth most fair  
Coffee and bun tea and toast; *The Times* then  
*The Evening Standard*, punctuated by  
*The Freud Journal of Lon Ambros-Salvati*.  
Already one's actions mimic of the legendary,  
If only to oneself, since at the moment  
The springs of venar now flowing are a long  
Spill of being lugged up. It is sorely needed  
The shiny tentacles of the encephalograph  
Or the sting of the syringe's proboscis to release them.  
They would have been antised to observe a waitress  
Making sure of her lipstick before going off duty,  
To mark the desolation here of the new  
Concrete, and rudimentary roundabout,  
Or just to read how in wintur the gnat zone  
Is merely leaved from the anal and that (in Lon's view)  
She is the miththesis of Faustian mon—  
For why should she pursue the unattainable  
Since she herself is the goal?

Though immersed in the body—  
Its plen to knife and drug, imbecile powers,  
To restore the health of youth—my Mithrasian chin  
Is really this dream-living, this hurgous  
Collection and comparison of things.  
Enough that the pluggin's eye hinks us slowly as  
An old-fashioned camera-shutter, and that its obscur  
Appears to be effected by the sunno  
Adorned with ornamentation of wrinkled stuff.  
And yet unceasingly I'm reminded that only  
By a concession wrought from the gods  
In their weak moments as swan lovers or lyre-fans  
Was art accorded the privilege of addressing  
A world in which one order felt ill at ease.

Bridge and river, how did you come to be  
Such strong companions? Were the grossy bones  
Sapured lovers, in ocel of a restless erection  
To mingle their gravels and roolly enlose the silver  
Serpent forever slipping from their grasp?  
Unlucky conjunction, that allowed the horsehoe  
To make the librarians flee, and far products  
Feed local manufactory of east.  
But even when the arching above is broken,  
As it will be, and the water divides once more,  
And squatting birds, making imperial halos of but  
Are truly the intelligences of the sub-tide's litter.  
The arrangement of molecules will still seem  
An other irrelevance—for what has ourth  
To do with the purposelessness of divinity?

And yet we imagined them. Food time  
From the mashing of books and gold, and the mixing of  
For the elusive dixer of immortality,  
To conceive the utterly indifferent gnats  
In their camp of great fires and freezing corridors.  
Is the universal order hereth the poet's  
Contempt, then? His sorrow for humanity,  
And its complex and pitiful body, ton deep  
To be comprised in the dust and namelessness of hospital  
One most think so, submitting to the mercy of hospital  
Agitated over disaster to birds, and drinking  
The real but small comfort of the Indian herb

## EMINENT AUSTRALIANS

*Australian Dictionary of Biography*. General Editor: Douglas Pike. Volume 1: 1788-1851. A-11. 578pp. Melbourne University Press. Cambridge University Press. £6.

Students of Australian history have until now had to depend for readily accessible biographical material on scattered articles in the *Australian Encyclopedia* and on Percival Serle's good but short *Dictionary of Australian Biography*, written single-handed and published in two volumes in 1949. They can now look, with some pride, to the steady appearance of a series of volumes which will cover the period from 1788 to 1938, and which will offer them the sort of information (background, career and character, with, in most cases, a critical assessment and bibliography) found in the *D.A.B.*

The editor's preface to the first volume of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* explains that it is to be followed by a second for the period 1788-1851, then by four volumes for 1851-1890 and probably six for 1891-1938. The dictionary's headquarters are at the Australian National University, Canberra; but all Australian university librarians and archivists have co-operated in this vast project, and the articles whose total, it is estimated, will be some 10,000, are drawn from a wide variety of contributors.

Among the foremost problems in editing a biographical dictionary must be the selection of names for inclusion and the allotment of space to each. Hard on the back of these problems comes that of guiding the contributors, whose ability to write with elegance and trenchancy may be (and in this volume certainly is) widely different.

Selection inevitably has to be arbitrary; even so, some instances of it here are surprising. Why, one might ask, should Captain Cook be given only a short (anonymous) article, of roughly the same length as that given to George Bruce, "sailor and adventurer", or Alexander Dalrymple the hydrographer? Such decisions may well be justified by the fact that we all know something of Cook (and can learn more from the bibliography provided) but that Bruce and Dalrymple were worth rescuing from obscurity. The decision to give Earl Grey nine columns and Earl Bothwell, an equally important Secretary of State, only one, is more difficult to understand. In principle, apart from explorers and Colonial Office men, only those who set foot in the colonies are included: an exception is made (deservedly) in the case of J. E. Gray, keeper of the zoological department of the British Museum and diligent catalogue of newly discovered Australian fauna. It would not be difficult to compile lists of those who never would be missed in which commissariat officials and bickering military men might rank high or of those who might have been included. But the decisions have been taken: it is more useful now to inspect what is in fact offered.

There are some 500 articles in this volume. The majority of them are good. Some are very good indeed (Arthur, Bent, Bigge, Darling, Ender, Byre, Fitzroy, Forbes, Franklin, Hindmarsh, Hunter, Gipps, Gray and a score of others) and a few of them are very bad. Some contributors have the gift of expressing themselves with grace as well as clarity. One must applaud the trenchancy of the verdict passed on Burnett: "he represented one side of colonial public service; self-seeking mediocrity". Weedy, the editor has not imposed a uniform style upon his contributors, that might have made for intolerably dull reading. He has retained such quaint turns of phrase as (of Amyntage) "by 1845 his quiver held seven sons and at least three daughters" or of Bolden "he filled his father's shoes in the shorthand world", which are surprisingly difficult to render into words at once fewer and more precise. But with space so precious, the editor might have used his blue pencil more to eliminate redundant phrases (as a classical scholar he H. Dumont made a translation of Herodotus' "I relieve sententiousness, I. Forcier" translated, edited or reviewed many accounts of voyages... this informing the Continental peoples of Pacific and Australian affairs") and, in particular, to curb his contributors' anxiety to press the unique claims to fame of their subjects. That P. E. Cuyson "performed the first surgical operation in Victoria" is worth recording; that he was also "the victim of the first assault in Melbourne

by a demented patient on his medical attendant, being rendered semi-conscious by a kick in the stomach" is not. Not all the contributors have the honesty of the author of the piece on W. N. Clark, who admits that his only claim to notice is that he fought hard won the only fatal duel to take place in Western Australia.

A biographical sketch must fit tight round a subject, moulding him and no other. Occasionally contributors have inflated their subjects to the point of ludicrousness. An infamous trader named Bishop who trafficked in sealskins, pork and treasuries is fully described as "an interesting representative of the current British concern for eastern commerce. His personal Odyssey was of intrinsic significance; few before him could have explored the wealth of Africa, America, Australia and Oceania." Of Thomas Arnold (son of Arnold of Rugby) it is said that "Arnold's labours in Van Diemen's Land demonstrated that a mind well trained in Oxford treatises could apply itself effectively to any human situation"—a proposition hardly borne out by the ensuing sketch, in which Arnold is shown to have made a disastrous marriage, provoked antagonism by his conversion to the Roman Catholic Church, left his post in the colony after only six years, and to have been hounded by dogged by "economic and mental distress".

If it is to be more than merely a reference book for checking specific points, a biographical dictionary should be half "lives of the great" and half "a book of characters"; and by this test, this volume is abundantly successful. It includes not only governors, chief justices and other officials, but also aborigines, bushrangers, "wild white men", industrialists, architects, botanists, artists, missionaries and a publican. An agreeable flavour of House is imparted by the inclusion of such characters as "Samuel Bate, sneering curist", "Frederick and Charles Baucher, confidence men", "James Davis, assassin", and "Charles Hardwicke, naval lieutenant and racing enthusiast". The editor has deliberately included "less notable" figures "simply as samples of the Australian experience". The good sense of this is shown in the refreshing glimpses we have of men like the Hunter brothers, pioneer pastoralists living the "half-laborious, half-romantic" life typified by Rolf Bolke, a doctor's son who owned a self-sufficient settler John Buswell, who "created wheels for a truck, dosed sick aborigines, tanned leather, read philosophy, managed everyone and wrote Latin verse".

Reasons for departure to the colonies (there are few colonial-born subjects in this early period) are always of interest. Many of course came to official appointments; others were transported, the euphemism "forced labour" has been detected only once. Some, virtually unemployable at home, were foisted on the colony by "patronage", occasionally (as in the case of Alexander Macdoff Baxter) to the colony's serious cost. John Bidee and his bride eloped to Van Diemen's Land; Francis Cotton left because of "rheumatic fever, London fog and visions of brighter prospects". John Blaxland went because he was depressed at "England's gloomy prospects" for farmers; William Burford, butcher and candle-maker, left in search of "religious freedom", arriving in the colony with one shilling and sixpence in his pocket. Archibald Bell took care to have it known that he left England "not from distress, unfortunate antecedents or any circumstance affecting his conduct or character", but simply because he hoped the colony would offer him a better chance of supporting a wife and nine children.

Others simply "arrived". Perhaps their motives cannot now be traced; but in this case (as with some of the convicts, whose date and place of conviction but not whose crime is noted) might not some scholarly equivalent of "haven't a clue"—literally denoting that perfectly common and respectable frustration liable in all historical research, the unsuccessful pursuit of possibly non-existent material—be devised to appease the reader's curiosity?

The Dictionary is of great value in providing rounded accounts of men whose residence in Australia was but one stage in a complex career. That Eyre explored the Australian interior

## EARLY MELBOURNE

*Georgiana's Journal*. Edited by Hugh McCrae. 262pp. Angus and Robertson. £3 10s.

Georgiana McCrae was the Scottish wife of a Scottish lawyer who settled in Melbourne at the beginning of the 1840s. She had been brought up in London and was a woman of some culture who had taken drawing lessons from the celebrated John Varley. In Australia, she kept a diary, fairly consistently for the first three years, and sporadically thereafter; and this, edited by her grandson, the poet Hugh McCrae, was originally published in Australia in 1934. The present volume, the second edition, is the first to appear in this country.

To those who know Melbourne and are interested in the early days of the settlement there, this is obviously a book of some significance, though purely as a diary it cannot be said to rank high. Much of it is small beer of the blattest description: "Baby Humphrey is very ill... from teething"; "impacked George's trousers... found them already two inches too short"; "kangaroo soup... to our taste, a superior article". All very fascinating, no doubt, to the descendants, as is attested by Mr. McCrae's massive and painstaking annotations, to say nothing of the

addition at the end of two lengthy chunks from the hand of his father (the son of Georgiana, one of which is the diary he kept at thirteen, the other an essay on Australia which he compiled at the same age).

Very occasionally a light gleams. On page 87 Richard Hengist Thorne makes a minimal appearance, though nothing is said about him; on page 217 the Balmuccis gossip a little about their Napoleonic encounters on St. Helena. All this renders the more peculiar the claim stoutly announced in the foreword: "Among the shrewdest analysts of the Victorian Home-land were Isabella Becton, George de Manier and Georgiana McCrae."

The illustrations, however, are a different matter. Georgiana profited from her lessons with Varley (to whom, oddly enough, she was introduced by the daughter of the revolutionary firebrand, Thomas Hodgkin). Her many sketches and portraits here excellently reproduced are memorable. So also, though for a different reason, are the potent early photographs of the aristocratic families of the Melbourne life, complete with their chimney-pot hats and their liveried menials.

## DOCTOR AT LARGE

GEORGE SAVA: *A Surgeon in Australia*. 256pp. Faber and Faber. 28s.

It is a middle-class characteristic everywhere, but particularly in Britain, to hold doctors in low esteem. "I must see my quack", the affluent and semi-affluent say, when something goes wrong and they must perforce visit their doctor. Practitioners of "fringe medicine", on the other hand, become "that wonderful little man, or the black box wizard, or the man who cures everything with herbs". What makes the under-valuation of doctors so puzzling is the rate at which books about them continue to be written and apparently read, since to cap this attitude of patronizing condescension scarcely more than two or three of these books are written with grace or credibility. George Sava, an avid and avowed niner of this presumably profitable seam, is a plastic surgeon; though a cursory reading of his works leaves the impression that there is no branch of medicine in which he is not proficient ("I happen to be a Harley Street specialist with a modest knowledge of surgery", he informs an unimpressed aborigine)—nor a place in the world (*A Surgeon in Rome, A Surgeon in California, A Surgeon in New Zealand, A Surgeon in Cyprus, Surgeon under Capricorn, and lots more*) where he has not practised the healing art. He most be an infrequent attendant at his Harley Street rooms.

This time he fulfils a long-cherished dream of a spell with the Flying Doctor service. The pattern is depressingly akin to others in the seemingly endless saga—a collection of clichés with local colour, technical accounts

of medical procedures, and hackles-raising writing. "You're a surgeon, I reminded myself sternly," all right, here you're fighting against fantastic odds, but it's your job to fight, not to stop and think about life's cruelty.

Mr. Sava's world and the equally ridiculous Dr. Kildare world of men in white coats dallying with noble nurses in hospital corridors and operating-theatres in the intervals between high drama with their patients are a far cry from the freeze on doctors' pay, long hours, dingy over-crowded waiting-rooms, and early twentieth-century hospitals. This world is unchallenged. Somerset Maugham in *Of a Surgeon*, Francis Brett Young, and A. J. Cronin in *The Citadel* glanced briefly at it in an earlier stage of its existence; Sinclair Lewis wrote sympathetically, un-sentimentally, and with insight of life and work in mammoth prestigious research institutes. But real life human beings whose work happens to be doctoring seldom appear in great writing. Pasternak's Dr. Zhivago and Chekhov's doctors are credible human beings, precisely because the technical details of their work are incidental. In the novels, novelettes, and television plays of today the technical details are foregrounded, and the characters are cardboard figures. No one, for instance, has written imaginatively about the impact of thousands of Pakistani and African doctors and nurses who pump up the rickety structure of hospitals in the National Health Service. Here, surely, there is scope even for Mr. Sava. *A Pakistani Surgeon in Bradford?*

## THE NINTH CHILDREN'S LITERARY COMPETITION

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One of the really significant things about this selection is that it presents so many experimental writers to the English-speaking reader. The poetry of Max Hölzer, Rainer M. Gerhardt, Eugen Gomringer, Ernst Jandl, and Franz Mon, for instance, is little known in this country. But could we not have been told why Max Bense, Jürgen Becker and Carlfried Claus for instance are excluded? If the literary right wing is out, would it not have been better to give us a fuller introduction to and selection from the avant-garde? The book is splendidly produced, though, and errors are few and far between.

This is an important anthology as a one which contains much to enjoy. If it had been presented as an unashamedly personal selection of certain types of "New Writing in German"—a more accurate title—it would have been altogether admirable.

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